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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-seventh session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

(*Item 3 (a)*)

Report of the Secretary-General on consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019

Programme 10
Trade and development

Introduction

1. At its 12th and 13th meetings, on 12 and 13 June 2017, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 10, Trade and development, of the report of the Secretary-General on the consolidated changes to the biennial programme plan as reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2).

2. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during its consideration by the Committee.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed their appreciation for the introduction of the revisions to programme 10, Trade and development, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1) and for the efforts undertaken to

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streamline the work of UNCTAD and make it more flexible in responding to the needs of member States.

4. Some delegations welcomed and expressed support for the alignment of the programme and its resources with the Nairobi Maafikiano, the outcome document of the fourteenth session of UNCTAD, and for the focus of the programme on regional integration. Some delegations welcomed the proposal to align UNCTAD resources with the aim of supporting developing countries in implementing goals towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. One delegation stressed the importance of facilitating the integration of small- and medium-sized businesses into the global value chain. One delegation expressed appreciation for the role of UNCTAD as a vital forum for supporting developing countries and economies in transition, highlighting in particular the enhanced cooperation with the Eurasian Economic Union.

5. Some delegations expressed support for the increased efforts of UNCTAD to be nimble and lean and, in that regard, stressed the importance of developing an evaluation mechanism to show that the results achieved were consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals. Some delegations expressed disappointment with the indicators of achievement owing to their being quantitative rather than qualitative in nature. In that respect, UNCTAD was requested to improve the formulation of the indicators of achievement and the thematic presentation of outputs. One delegation commented on the presentation of some tables in section 12, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 12) and Corr.1) and highlighted table 12.19 on categories of outputs and final outputs in particular, seeking clarification on the rationale for such a list and for the use of quantity rather than quality to measure outcomes and results.

6. One delegation sought clarification on the reference to the activities of the World Trade Organization in paragraph 14 of the report of the Secretary-General.

7. With regard to the placement of cross-cutting activities, such as those concerning gender equality and the empowerment of women, within subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development, referred to in paragraph 16 (f) of the report, some delegations noted that additional posts had been approved by the General Assembly for those activities. However, they questioned whether such activities that were cross-cutting in nature might be better placed in the Office of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

8. Some delegations sought clarification on the mandate for strengthening the work of UNCTAD in the area of statistics, as outlined in paragraph 18 (f) of the report, under subprogramme 1, Globalization, interdependence and development. Some delegations raised concerns regarding the mandate of UNCTAD and the possible duplication of efforts in the area of debt, with respect to which there appeared to be an attempt to conflate debt with the activities of the International Conference on Financing for Development, which seemed to go beyond the mandate of UNCTAD and the Nairobi Maafikiano.

9. One delegation noted some of the cuts in resource requirements in the regular budget and expressed the hope that those cuts would not affect the quality of management, but rather would enable more rational use of resources and help UNCTAD to work with the donor community in mobilizing extrabudgetary resources.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the changes to the narrative of programme 10, Trade and development, as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/72/84 and Corr.1 and 2) and in section 12, Trade and development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 12) and Corr.1), subject to the following modifications:**

Paragraph 6

Replace the second sentence with the following: "Through its work to promote development-centred globalization, UNCTAD will help to implement the global development agenda, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third United Nations Conference on Financing for Development and, as appropriate, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and will assist developing countries in meeting their development goals, including poverty eradication, improving the well-being of citizens, addressing the opportunities and challenges created by globalization and contributing to the achievement of all relevant Sustainable Development Goals."

Replace the last sentence with the following: "The specific development needs of African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, according to their needs, should be addressed at both the research and technical assistance levels in accordance with the Nairobi Maafikiano and other given mandates."

Paragraph 9

Replace the second sentence with the following: "As sustainable and inclusive outcomes in an interdependent world involve collective responses at the multilateral level, UNCTAD has a key role to play within the United Nations system in building consensus around more development-centred globalization, which can contribute to the promotion of sustainable development, increased productive capacities for economic structural transformation, sustainable debt management, job creation, poverty eradication and stronger multilateralism."

Paragraph 14

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 14, reading:

In the area of statistics, UNCTAD will continue to assist requesting countries in improving their compilation and dissemination of official statistics and make available a wide range of data, including current UNCTAD statistical products, to inform and assist decision-making.

Subprogramme 1
Globalization, interdependence and development

Strategy

Paragraph 16 (c) (iv)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Debt issues, including the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme, and the promotion of policies for responsible sovereign borrowing and lending, complementing the work done by other stakeholders, as appropriate;

Paragraph 17 (b)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Research and analysis on debt issues, including the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System Programme, and the promotion of policies for responsible sovereign borrowing and lending, complementing the work done by other stakeholders, as appropriate;

Paragraph 17 (i)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Research and analysis of trends and prospects for North-South cooperation, as well as South-South integration and cooperation, including triangular cooperation, in the areas of trade, finance, investment and technology;

Paragraph 17 (j)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Assessing, including through research and analysis on a regular basis, and promoting consensus on how development cooperation and partnerships, including those involving North-South cooperation and South-South cooperation, can further contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries;

Paragraph 18

Replace the existing text with the following:

Within its mandate, UNCTAD will focus on:

(a) Continuing to provide information and statistics on a range of statistics and statistical indicators dealing with trade, investment, debt, macroeconomics, finance, debt sustainability, globalization and sustainable development;

(b) Enhancing the quality of UNCTAD statistics by implementing the United Nations Statistical Quality Assurance Framework, ensuring that best international standards are adopted and a common quality standard across all UNCTAD statistical products is applied;

(c) Contributing to research and development by providing high-quality and timely statistics and through the provision of statistical advice and expertise;

(d) Facilitating the exchange of information on key development issues, through the free dissemination of a range of statistical products tailored to different audiences, making key information accessible to everyone, irrespective of statistical expertise;

(e) Providing technical assistance and capacity-building programmes for statistical experts, government officials, academia and

policymakers in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in coordination and cooperation with relevant partners;

(f) Supporting the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to develop their national statistical systems and improve statistical literacy in cooperation with other United Nations statistical agencies and international organizations.

Subprogramme 2
Investment and enterprise

Strategy

Paragraph 20.(d)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Support efforts by developing countries, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states, as well as middle-income countries, according to their needs, to build productive capacities and internationally competitive firms, in cooperation with ITC;

Subprogramme 3
International trade and commodities

Strategy

Paragraph 21.(i)

Delete the word "enhancing".

Subprogramme 4
Technology and logistics

Strategy

Paragraph 20.(m)

Replace the existing text with the following:

Contributing, as a member of the United Nations inter-agency task team on science, technology and innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals and as the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, to the implementation of outcomes related to science, technology and innovation of the 2030 Agenda, including the Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the operationalization of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries;

Subprogramme 5
Africa, least developed countries and special programmes

Strategy

Paragraph 20

In the fifth sentence covert to the original language as approved in the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2018-2019 (A/71/6/Rev.1), reading: "The subprogramme will assist all beneficiaries in their efforts to successfully achieve economic diversification and structural transformation."